

you think that it is a sows ear rather than a silk purse that we work our way through it and learn about the criminal laws of this state, and the best way to do it is this hour a day and as I say the best way to have it explained is to have it understandable to lay people. Sure we lawyers can sit here and give you legal technical explanations but it really has to be understood by the layman and that it is why it is good that laymen are involved. I think that it is appropriate and I wouldn't have thought that I would have said this. I think that it is appropriate that Senator Barnett, as chairman of the Judiciary, a lay person who has worked on this for years is involved in giving the basic and fundamental explanation of it.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature some of us like instant success and we would like to deal with smaller bills that are not difficult, or tedious or long like this bill is. As a member of judiciary for only two years, and some of these people who are no longer on Judiciary have been working on this bill for six years or longer, I think that it is necessary that we at least attempt to take the time and effort, which is tedious at this time, to spend an hour a day on this kind of bill to learn something about it. Several years ago the court reform act went through the same thing. Some of us were critical of it at that time. As a result, I think that most of it was good and we are learning to live with it and there was probably a lot more good than bad. Probably this bill is of the same nature. So, why don't we just listen for awhile instead of being too critical for the time being, and if we want to be critical later that is what we should be. But, lets listen for a time to learn about this bill.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, my question, I know that we are delaying time here, taking time here, but I would like to ask this question as we talk about the ramifications of the bill before us. How much time has been spent in the preparation of the bill? Approximately months, years or what?

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Barnett would you care to venture a guess?

SENATOR BARNETT: I wouldn't even attempt to guess Senator Kremer. We started in 1971 or 72, and we spend during the interims many man hours went into it in the law offices of the Carter Firm and other places. I would imagine that there are thousands of hours involved in it.

SENATOR KREMER: One further question, thank you Senator Barnett. Generally speaking who are the people that worked in the preparation of the bill, has it been the judiciary committee? Who was your staff and how much of a staff did you have? In other words, who are the people responsible for putting this bill together as we now have it before us?

SENATOR BARNETT: I think Senator Kremer, and I don't know if I have it in front of me now, but there was a Blue Ribbon Committee and again I refer to that language set up in 1972 that started tearing the criminal code apart. I might give you just a small list if I could of some of the people that were involved. The advisory committee members when we first started was William Colwell, Judge William Colwell, District Judge.